

CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

# ANNUAL REPORT 1955

DR. J. TATE, MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

R. A. JACKSON, SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR.



CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.COUNCILLORS.

J. Davies, J.P. (Chairman).  
 W. L. Powell. (Vice-Chairman).  
 Col. P. Fisher, J.P.  
 Alderman O. H. Williams, J.P.  
 L. J. Lewis, J.P.  
 J. Mills Price.  
 R. G. Jones.  
 R. G. Davies.  
 W. W. Harris.  
 W. H. Paske.  
 G. Bush.  
 H. J. McIntosh.  
 E. Williams.  
 Mrs. G. M. Llewelyn.  
 C. S. Farr.  
 W. Nicholls.

PARISH.

Llangattock.  
 Llangenny.  
 Llangenny.  
 Cwmdu.  
 Llangattock.  
 Cwmdu.  
 Crickhowell.  
 Crickhowell.  
 Llanbedr.  
 Llanelly. (Gilwern Ward)  
 Llanelly. (Gilwern Ward)  
 Llanelly. (Clydach Ward)  
 Llanelly. (Darenfelen Ward)  
 Llangynidr.  
 Llangynidr.  
 Partrishow.

OFFICIALS OF THE CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health.	J. Tate, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Clerk & Chief Financial Officer.	E. A. Beech, A.A.C.C.A., A.R.V.A.
Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.	R. A. Jackson, M.S.I.A., R.S.I., Cert (Meat & Foods)
Assistant to the Clerk.	A. M. Brace.
Assistant Rating Officer.	V. M. T. Leslie.
Collector.	E. J. Hennessy.
Housing Inspector and Camp Manager.	M. A. Thomas.



To the Chairman and Members of  
the Crickhowell Rural District Council.

Gentlemen and Madam,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances of the district, the health of the people and the work of the Public Health Department, during the year 1955.

I wish to tender my thanks to the Members of the Council for their helpful consideration and co-operation in all matters affecting Public Health. Also, the Officers of the Council for their help in all matters appertaining to the duties of the Health Department.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

J. TATE.

M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.





STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

<u>Population:-</u>	(Registrar General's Estimate)	7,540.
<u>Number of Parishes:-</u>		8.
<u>Acreage:-</u>	According to 1951 census.	46,140 acres.
<u>Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1955:-</u>		£28,097.
<u>Product of a Penny Rate 1954/55:-</u>	Actual 1954/55.	£105. 4. 5d.
	Estimated 1955/56.	£105.18. 6d.
<u>Rate in the Pound:-</u>	1954/55.	£1. 6. 6d.
	1955/56.	£1. 6. 0d.
<u>Water Rate:-</u>	3/- in the £ with a minimum of £1.1.0d. per annum.	
<u>Number of Dwellings (including farms):-</u>		2,393.
<u>Number of Council Houses (included in above figure):-</u>		280.

Crickhowell is a large District in South Breconshire, mainly mountainous in character, with an acreage of 46,140 acres.

The District is divided into eight Parishes, Crickhowell, Llangattock, Cwmdru, Llangenny, Llangynidr, Llanbedr and Partrishow, which are mainly agricultural, and Llanellty which is mainly industrial. In the agricultural area the workers are employed mainly in farm work, forestry and quarrying. In the industrial area, the workers are employed mainly in adjacent coalmines in North Monmouthshire and in various new factories established since the late War in Brynmawr and North Monmouthshire. The Elvicta Handtools Company have established a new modern factory in Crickhowell.

The housing problem remains a most urgent matter, as indeed it is a national problem. A large percentage of the existing houses particularly in the Llanellty Hill area, are occupied by more than one family and there is a large number of old sub-standard houses, which should be considered for demolition action when conditions permit.

The Council is pressing on building new houses, the chief difficulties being shortage of skilled labour, materials and suitable sites.

Tenants for new houses are selected by means of a Points Scheme adopted by the Council so as to allocate houses to families in the greatest need, conditions of existing accommodation overcrowding and health circumstances, all rating for "points award".

When new houses are allocated to applicants, their old houses are inspected with a view to their future use. A number of these houses then have a Demolition or Closing Order made on them, if they are unfit for human habitation.

The following Orders were made during 1955:-

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS.

(1) Housing Act, 1936.

- (a) Houses to be demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11.
- (b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force.
- (c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12).

(2) Housing Act, 1949.

- (a) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1).
- (b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2).

(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1).

Number of	
Houses.	Persons displaced.
7	16
3	6
3	7
Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil
4	7

Two ex-Army hutted Camps at Dan-y-parc and Aberbaiden, are still occupied by a number of families, mostly from outside the Council's area. These Camps were built about fourteen years ago for the purposes of winning the War and were never intended to last. They are now in a very bad state of repair and far from weatherproof. They constitute a serious problem both from housing and Public Health points of view. Certain repairs have been authorised by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to try and make the huts weatherproof. Numbers of families from other areas have been struck off their Council's housing lists when they occupied these Camps, and are not admitted to the Crickhowell Rural District Council's housing list.

The number of huts in Aberbaiden Camp have been reduced by six during the year 1955. There were twenty one huts in occupation at the end of the year. The number of huts in Dan-y-parc Camp have also been reduced by two during the year 1955. There were twenty huts in occupation at the end of the year 1955.

In August 1955 a detailed report was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, as requested in the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, Section 1., giving the estimated number of unfit houses in the Council's area to be 100, and it was stated that the Council would have these closed or demolished within ten years.



6.

Number of applicants for Council Houses on 1st January, 1955.	210.
Number of applicants remaining on the Council's list 31st December, 1955.	183.
Total number of post-war Council Houses 1st January, 1956.	278.
Number of Council Houses completed during the year 1955.	35.
Number of Council Houses under construction on 31st December, 1955.	20.
Number of Private Houses completed during the year 1955.	10.

School Medical Service, Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, and the provision of school meals are carried out by the County Council.

The health of the District during the year has, on the whole, been good. There has been an absence of any serious outbreaks of epidemic diseases. The majority of the deaths during the year were in the higher age groups. The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been low, cases occurring have been adequately and quickly dealt with by the Chest Physicians at their Clinics at Brecon and Pontllanfraith.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. The Council have adopted the Clean Food Byelaws under Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Inspections have been carried out from time to time of various food handling stores, bake-houses, licensed premises and shops selling ice-cream in accordance with the Regulations. Minor defects have been pointed out and corrected. It has not been necessary to take any legal proceedings under the Byelaws.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No action has been necessary under this Section during the year 1955.



SECTION A.V I T A L   S T A T I S T I C S.

<u>Population:-</u>	(Registrar General's Estimate)			7,540.
<u>Total Births:-</u>	Male 58	Female 61	Total =	119.
<u>Total Deaths:-</u>	Male 44	Female 39	Total =	83.
<u>Still Births:-</u>	Male Nil	Female 2	Total =	2.
<u>Crude Birth Rate:-</u>				= 15.78.
<u>Crude Death Rate:-</u>				= 11.00.
<u>Infantile Mortality Rate:-</u>	(4 deaths)			Rate = 33.61.
<u>Transferable Deaths:-</u>	Inward 16	Outward 8		
<u>Comparability Factors:-</u>	Births 1.12.	Deaths 0.95.		

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS.DEATHS.

<u>Causes.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
All Causes.	44	39
1. Tuberculosis (Respiratory).	0	0
2. Tuberculosis (Other Form).	0	0
3. Syphilitic.	0	0
4. Diphtheria.	0	0
5. Whooping Cough.	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infection.	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	0	0
8. Measles.	0	0
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases.	0	0
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	0	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	3	0
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	0	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	0	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	6	1
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.	0	0
16. Diabetes.	0	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	1	4
18. Coronary disease, angina.	10	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	2	0
20. Other heart disease.	14	10
21. Other circulatory disease.	3	1
22. Influenza.	0	1
23. Pneumonia.	0	2
24. Bronchitis.	1	0
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	0	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	0	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	0	0
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis.	0	0
29. Hyperplasia of Prostrate.	0	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	0	0
31. Congenital malformations.	0	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	1	9
33. Motor Vehicle accidents.	1	0
34. All other accidents.	2	2
35. Suicide.	0	0
36. Homicides and operations of war.	0	0

SECTION B.

Laboratory Facilities	= Public Health Laboratory, County Hall, Newport, Mon.
Ambulance Facilities	= Breconshire County Council Ambulance stationed at Crickhowell.
Nursing in the Home	= Breconshire County Council.
Clinics and Centres	= Welsh Regional Hospital Board and North Monmouthshire Management Committee, War Memorial Hospital, Crickhowell. School Clinic, Market Hall, Crickhowell.

SECTION C.INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFICATIONS. The following cases, other than Tuberculosis, were notified during the year 1955:-

<u>Diseases.</u>	<u>Number of Cases.</u>
Whooping Cough.	18
Measles.	51
Dysentery.	3
Bronchial Pneumonia.	1
Diphtheria.	1
Erysipelas.	2
Scarlet Fever.	1
Salmonella.	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	1

TUBERCULOSIS. A schedule on new cases and removals from the Register is given below.

<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Removals from Register.</u>			
Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
4	3	0	1	3	3	0	0

Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December, 1955.

Respiratory.			Non-Respiratory.		
M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
23	21	44	2	4	6

SCHOOLS. No schools were closed during the year 1955, in consequence of infectious diseases.



SECTION D.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.W A T E R.

Previous Annual Reports will be found to contain full descriptions of the various supplies in the Council's area and it is unnecessary to repeat this information yearly.

The period has been one of the driest for very many years and conditions have been remarkably similar to those in 1921/1922 when the lowest rainfall of the century was recorded.

As a whole the local water sources held out surprisingly well and the residents and shopkeepers responded to the official request to conserve water and prevent wastage. It is also felt that increased maintenance and repair of watermains over the previous few years, made possible by the increased mobility of the staff with their van, has considerably helped to prevent wastage.

Shortage of water was experienced in the following districts:-

BWLCH.

This supply was totally inadequate and the village was given a restricted supply during the following periods:-

4th August, 1955 to 15th October, 1955.

Installation of the new system is now well advanced and this should be in operation about the Autumn of 1956.

CRICKHOWELL.

Local sources failed on 14th August, 1955 and parts of the town were supplied from the Newport Corporation main from 16th August, 1955 to 9th November, 1955.

Notices restricting the supply for garden watering etc., were displayed on 31st August, 1955.

GILWERN.

The two main supplies to the village never failed throughout the drought. This was indeed a pleasant surprise in view of the increased demand called for by the recent water carriage sewerage system and the new houses erected in the area.

Water economy notices were displayed on 23rd August, 1955.

The Twynwenallt area was supplied frequently by water tank, but the answer to this problem is now in sight as the new scheme for taking water from the Abertillery watermain should be in operation by the Summer of 1956.

CLYDACH.

The source at the Quarry, Clydach Main Road, failed frequently and an emergency supply of one hour per day was fed into the system from the higher Blaenduar Reservoir at Clydach Station. Eventually the Blaenduar Reservoir source failed and this Reservoir was filled by pumping from the Hydram source on eleven occasions. For this latter purpose a pump was hired from the Breconshire and Radnorshire Fire Service and operated by this Council's staff. The reservoir was hand chlorinated during the pumping operations.



LLANBEDR.

The local source failed to give sufficient yield in August 1955 and the new emergency connection laid in 1953 from the Table Mountain source was put into operation until 7th November, 1955.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORTS.Public Piped Supplies.

Supply.	Samples Taken.	Satisfactory.	Poor.	Unsatisfactory.
Abertillery & District Water Board.	1	1	-	-
Bwlch.	1	-	1	-
Clydach. (Blaenduar)	1	1	-	-
Clydach. (Troedyrhiw)	1	1	-	-
Clydach. (Ffynnoncoed)	1	1	-	-
Clydach. (Quarry Main Road)	1	-	-	1
Clydach. (Hafod)	1	1	-	-
Crickhowell. (Lower Reservoir)	1	1	-	-
Crickhowell. (Upper Reservoir)	2	1	1	-
Cwmdu.	1	1	-	-
Gilwern. (Brunant & Maesgwartha)	1	-	-	1
Gilwern. (Hydrum)	2	-	-	2
Llanbedr.	1	-	-	1
Llangattock. (Ffawyddog)	1	1	-	-
Llangattock. (Tyle)	1	1	-	-
Llangattock. (Hillside)	1	-	1	-
Llangenny. (Cwm Cegr)	1	1	-	-

Continued on next page.

Supply.	Samples Taken.	Satisfactory.	Poor.	Unsatisfactory.
Newport Corporation.	1	1	-	-
Tretower.	1	1	-	-
Totals.	21	13	3	5

There is no evidence of any contamination from a human source, and it would appear that unsatisfactory bacteriological reports are due to animal contamination of surface water gaining access to spring water in the collection areas.

#### D R A I N A G E   A N D   S E W E R A G E .

##### LLANGATTOCK.

The installation of a sewerage scheme for the village has proceeded during the year.

Work was carried out on the Sewage Treatment Works, Main Pumping Station, main sewer lengths and the river crossing. The latter work being helped considerably by the very dry season resulting in a river flow of the smallest volume for many years.

##### LLANBEDR.

The proposal to instal a new sewerage treatment plant to deal with the present village and the proposed housing estate is still under discussion. Difficulty has been experienced with the total cost, approval of grant and the number of houses to be constructed for housing needs of the Parish and Forestry Workers.

##### GLANGRWYNEY.

A sewerage scheme for this village will shortly be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for grant and loan consideration.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING - REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The general scavenging service of the area, and the night soil collection in the Parish of Llangattock, continue to function satisfactorily.

#### R O D E N T   C O N T R O L .

PEST ACT, 1950.    A full time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council.

Infestation Treatments carried out during the year:-

Private Dwellings.....	204	
Business Premises.....	8	
Schools.....	1	
Hospital.....	1	
Sewerage Systems.....	Regular Treatment.	
Refuse Tips.....	"	"
Brooks in Villages.....	"	"

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

Details of the routine inspection at the fourteen factories in the area are contained on separate Ministry forms.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

FOOD CONDEMNED AND VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED. The following goods were, on inspection, found to be unfit and were voluntarily surrendered:-

10 tins Pears.  
 12 tins Peas.  
 10 tins Meat.  
 17 tins Milk.  
 20 tins Tomatoes.  
 18 tins Soup.  
 10 tins Prunes.  
 3 tins Brislings.  
 4 tins Cream.  
 7 tins Pineapples.  
 3 tins Plums.  
 3 tins Stewed Steak.  
 2 tins Beans.  
 7 tins Cherries.  
 3 tins Herrings.  
 5 tins Raspberries.  
 6 tins Peaches.  
 5 tins Apricots.  
 7 tins Carrots.  
 3 tins Jam.  
 2 tins Salmon.  
 3 tins Sardines.  
 1 tin Pilchards.  
 1 tin Mixed Vegetables.  
 28 lbs Cheese.  
 10 lbs Peaches.  
 6 lbs Margarine.  
 9 jars Chico.  
 5 jars Meat Paste.  
 3 jars Instant Postum.  
 1 Bottle Sunfresh Orange Drink.

MILK.

Persons registered as Retail Distributors of Milk purchased in bulk. 10

Number of Retail Distributors of Milk licensed to sell designated milk. 10

Samples of milk taken during the year, from the stock on the delivery vans of the above Retailers, have all given satisfactory results for keeping quality and, where applicable, negative results to tuberculosis.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Slaughtering took place on forty seven occasions at the slaughter-house of Mr. J. Price, High Street, Crickhowell, during the year 1955.

This slaughter-house is now licensed for six monthly periods on the condition that the amount of slaughtering does not increase.



The following animal carcasses were inspected:-

Lambs	366
Beasts	43
Sheep	5
Calves	4
Pigs	2

and 76 lbs of offal was condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	43	-	4	471	2	-
Number inspected	43	-	4	471	2	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	5	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6.9	-	-	1.06	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis</u>	N I L.					
<u>Cysticercosis</u>	N I L.					

#### SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS.

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1955:-

Detailed house inspections.....	729
Public Health Acts.....	570
Food.....	35
Factories.....	21
Complaints investigated.....	55
Scavenging investigations.....	16
Drainage investigations.....	115
Water Supply investigations.....	139

#### NOTICES SERVED.

Informal.		Statutory.	
Served.	Complied with.	Served.	Complied with.
34	30	0	0

